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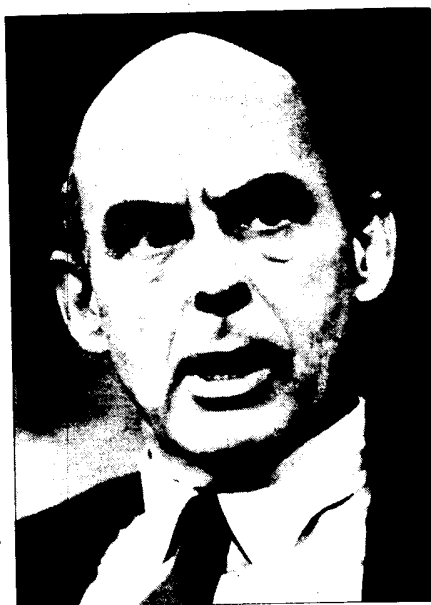
LaRouched in Illinois

How to shred a ticket

Forged campaign letters, death threats, unexploded bombs on the doorstep: last week's Illinois primary produced the usual run of peccadilloes. But no one suffered as much as Adlai Stevenson III, making his second run for the governorship. Stevenson won the Democratic primary only to find that the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor would be Mark Fairchild, 28, an electrical engineer converted to the live-wire politics of Lyndon H. LaRouche. Fairchild signed up after a LaRouchenik with a "Nuke Jane Fonda" sign collared him at O'Hare Airport. Another follower of LaRouche, Janice Hart, bagged the Democratic nomination for secretary of state. "My method is the method of Joan of Arc," proclaimed Hart, and she and Fairchild laid out their platform: mandatory AIDS testing for all Americans (and quarantine for everyone who tests positive), "tanks rolling down State Street" and "Nuremberg tribunals" for drug dealers, bankers and other "boys at the top."

Stevenson denounced his running mates as "bizarre and dangerous extremists" and swore he'd find a way to purge them from the ballot. "I will never run on a ticket with candidates who espouse the hate-filled folly of Lyndon LaRouche," he said. Hart dismissed the attack as the fulminations of "a wimp." But LaRouche himself took a paternal line. "I think Adlai is responding to very great pressures," he said.

Stevenson blamed: The problem for Stevenson was how to shred the ticket without tearing up his own hopes of succeeding Gov. James Thompson, a 10-year incumbent who narrowly beat him four years ago. Stevenson threatened a possible recount and toyed with forming a third party. (Under state election law, it's now too late for him to run as an independent.) But to run as a third-party candidate, Stevenson would have to field a full slate of nominees—and other Illinois Democrats weren't exactly racing to embrace that idea. As they saw it, a third party could endanger the election chances of the whole state ticket. Many Democratic leaders blamed Stevenson for his own troubles. "If we really



Surprise on the right: Stevenson (above), LaRouche man with bullhorn

intend to keep the party together, we'd have Adlai Stevenson move to Indiana," sniped Chicago Alderman Bernard Stone.

Stevenson's haughty, hands-off style of campaigning had contributed to his distress. The day before the election he failed to show up at Chicago's Saint Patrick's Day parade—in Chicago a gaffe akin to the pope's missing Easter mass. He campaigned only lackadaisically for state Sen. George Sangmeister and Aurelia Pucinski, his picks for the slots that went to the LaRoucheniks. Other forces worked against him as well, from downstate cultural prejudice—candidates with Anglo-Saxon names versus ethnic ones—to low voter turnout caused by rain on Election Day.

LaRouche, who has run in every presi-

dential election since 1976, saw the upset victory as a mandate. Having started political life as a Marxist-Leninist, he now wraps himself in radical-right positions. He believes there is a worldwide antidemocratic conspiracy, headed by Italian aristocrats, Jewish bankers, Chinese intelligence agents and Queen Elizabeth II. (The CIA and William F. Buckley Jr. are also under suspicion.) A cabal, he contends, is out to "deindustrialize" the Western world by making it dependent on drugs. The Holocaust, he has said, is a "hoax."

Forewarned, state party officials across the country were looking hard at their ballots—and finding them infested with LaRoucheniks; Democrats in California discovered a LaRouche follower running unopposed in the congressional primary.

In all, 26 states have LaRouche partisans as official candidates, most of them on the Democratic ticket. Party officials can tag the LaRouche candidates and campaign hard against them, but when it comes to purging them from the ticket, they may have no more options than Stevenson has. "The Democratic national machine is going to stand there like King Canute, trying to order the waves to recede," LaRouche said. "It won't work." His numbers are too few to control the Democratic Party. But a few more victories like Illinois could very well freak it out.

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Fairchild and Hart: 'Bizarre and dangerous extremists'?